We claim:

1. A process for preparing isocyanates by reacting amines with phosgene, wherein the phosgene-containing feed stream has a hydrogen chloride content of more than 0.8% by mass.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phosgene-containing feed stream has a hydrogen chloride content of from 1.3% by mass to 15% by mass.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the phosgene-containing feed stream is mixed with an amine-containing feed stream in a mixing time of from 0.0001 seconds to 5 seconds.

4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 for preparing TDI, m-MDI, p-MDI, HDI, IPDI, H6TDI, H12MDI, XDI, t-CHDI and NDI.

5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the reaction is carried out in a temperature range from 25 to 260°C and at absolute pressures of from 0.9 bar to 400 bar, with the molar ratio of phosgene to amino groups used being from 1.1:1 to 12:1.

6. The use of phosgene having a hydrogen chloride content of more than 0.8% by mass for preparing isocyanates by phosgenation of primary amines.

7. The use as claimed in claim 6, wherein the preparation of isocyanates is carried out in a continuous process and the reaction of phosgene with amine occurs in the liquid phase.

8. A production plant for preparing isocyanates by reacting primary amines with phosgene, which comprises an amine reservoir, a phosgene reservoir, a mixing apparatus, a reactor and a work-up apparatus, wherein the phosgene-containing feed stream fed into the mixing apparatus from the phosgene reservoir has a hydrogen chloride content of more than 0.8% by mass.

1 drawing